(b) if so, whether Nuclear Power Corporation has adequate infrastructure and financial resources for setting up these Nuclear Power Plants; and

(c) if not, whether other Public Sector Undertakings or private enterprises would be forming joint venture to undertake these gigantic projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The sanction for projects of 2 × 700 MWe each in the existing sites at Kakrapar in Gujarat and at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan has been accorded. Two additional units of 1000 MWe each have been approved at the existing Kudankulam site in Tamil Nadu. A new site in Jaitapur in Maharashtra has been identified for setting up of nuclear power station. Sites have also been approved 'in principle' for setting up future nuclear power projects in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

(b) and (c) While, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL), has adequate resources, Joint Ventures of NPCIL with other PSUs are being considered for enhancement of resources. NPCIL has entered into a Joint Venture with a private industry for making large size steel forgings required for nuclear power plants.

Assurance regarding Atomic Non-proliferation treaty

†2309. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA has sought an assurance from India regarding atomic non-proliferation;

(b) if so, when did USA and India approach each other on this issue during last one year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that not a single American has accepted the said agreement on nuclear trade so far; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) In April 2009 the US Government had sought from Government of India assurances that items transferred to India as part of civil nuclear cooperation would be subject to certain conditions. The Government of India and US Government are in contact on the issue of civil nuclear cooperation between the two countries pursuant to the "Agreement for Co-operation between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy."

Strengthening of AERB

2310. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) considering expanding usage of the radiation technologies in industrial, diagnostic and medicinal purposes, whether all such installations are required to obtain license from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB);

(b) whether it is also a fact that AERB is supposed to conduct regular inspections of such installations;

(c) if so, whether AERB has sufficient strength of skilled professionals to carry out its mandate;

(d) the details of staff strength of AERB; and

(e) if not, the steps that are being taken to strengthen AERB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Presently AERB has a scientific and technical staff strength of 171 personnel. Considering the projected expansion of nuclear power and the expanding use of radiation technologies in the country in Industrial, diagnostic and medical applications, the Government has recently sanctioned addition of 103 scientific and technical staff in AERB. Action for induction of the sanctioned additional staff in AERB has been initiated.

Licence for using radioactive substances

2311. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) is the apex body to grant licences to the installation using radiation or radio active substances;

(b) considering expanding usage of the radiation technologies in industrial, diagnostic and medicinal purposes, whether all such installations are required to obtain licence from AERB;

(c) if so, whether AERB has requisite decentralized set up at selection locations in the country; and

(d) if not, whether the AERB consider setting up its branches at select locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Presently the work of reviewing applications and grant of licenses is being done by the AERB office located in Mumbai. However, considering the projected expansion of nuclear power and the expanding usage of radiation technologies in industrial, diagnostic and medical applications, AERB has initiated action for establishing two regional centres; one in Kolkata and the other in Chennai/Kalpakkam under its expansion project in the Eleventh Plan.